

From: Gearheard.Mike@epamail.epa.gov
Sent time: 01/17/2008 08:57:26 AM
To: MULLANE.Neil@deq.state.or.us; dpee461@ecy.wa.gov; barry.burnell@deq.idaho.gov
Cc: Rodriguez.Socorro@epamail.epa.gov; Werntz.James@epamail.epa.gov; eaton.thomas@epa.gov; palmer.john@epa.gov; soscia.marylou@epa.gov
Subject: EPA Letter to NOAA
Attachments: Final NOAA Letter Jan 15.pdf

Good Morning,

I want to share with you a letter we sent to NOAA earlier this week. As you all know, NOAA is responsible for developing a biological opinion (BiOp) under the Endangered Species Act concerning operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System by the Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration, and the Bureau of Reclamation. NOAA has produced a new draft BiOp that was out for public review until January 4th.

While we did not comment on the draft BiOp, we did send the attached letter earlier this week pointing out a number of EPA activities and concerns related to water quality and salmon recovery in the Columbia River Basin. I am sharing our January 15th letter because many of the activities we point out to NOAA involve our working partnerships with you, including, for example, efforts to complete Section 7 consultation on the Washington water quality standards, the Columbia/Snake temperature TMDL, the Columbia River toxic chemical reduction work, and so forth.

Regarding temperature, specifically, we are calling on NOAA to engage with us in further dialogue on a number of specific issues related to temperature in the system. Climate change projections make this subject all the more important.

I welcome any reactions you have to our letter and any other thoughts or suggestions regarding the activities we discuss.

(See attached file: Final NOAA Letter Jan 15.pdf)

Mike Gearheard
Director, Office of Water and Watersheds
phone: (206) 553-7151
fax: (206) 553-0165
email: gearheard.mike@epa.gov